Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SEOUL 00805 290918Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
----------290920Z 108455 /10
O 290800Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1806

S E C R E T SEOUL 0805

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PINT KS
SUBJ: SUSPENSION OF DEATH SENTENCE FOR MR. KIM CHOL HYUN

REF: 76 STATE 313952

1. IN A PHONE CALL FROM THE OFFICE OF KCIA DIRECTOR KIM JAD KYU 28 JANUARY, EMBASSY WAS INFORMED THAT THE DIRECTOR HAD RAISED THE ISSUE OF CLEMENCY FOR MR. KIM CHOL HYUN WITH PRESIDENT PAK AS REQUESTED BY THE U.S. EMBASSY. AS A RESULT OF THAT CONVERSATION PRESIDENT PAK HAS SUSPENDED THE DEATH SENTENCE. LHE SUSPENSION MEANS THAT THE DEFENDANT REMAINS UNDER SENTENCE OF DEATH BUT THE SENTENCE WILL NOT BE CARRIED OUT. THE DIRECTOR'S SPOKESMAN WAS NOT ABLE TO CONFIRM THAT MR. KIM HAD BEEN INFORMED OF THE PRESIDENT'S ACTION NOR DID HE KNOW WHETHER A CLEMENCY APPEAL (SEPARATE FROM DIRECTOR KIM'S APPROACH TO PRESIDENT PAK) HAD BEEN SUBMITTED ON MR. KIM'S BEHALF.

2. DIRECTOR KIM SAID THIS INFORMATION SHOULD BE HELD TIGHTLY. HE REALIZES THAT THE CONGRESSIONAL QUERY WHICH STIMULATED EMBASSY INTEREST IN MR. KIM UNDOUBTEDLY REQUIRES THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO PASS THE INFORMATION ON TO THE CONCERNED CONGRESSMEN. HE ALSO IS AWARE THAT THIS ACTION BY ITSELF COULD LEAA TO PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE IN THE UNITED STATES REGARDING THE ROK

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GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT INTEREST IN THIS AFFAIR. THEREFORE, HE ASKED THAT PASSAGE OF THIS INFORMATION TO THE CONGRESS BE RESTRICTED TO THE MINIMUM NUMBER OF PEOPLE AND THAT THE

DEPARTMENT NOT DISSEMINATE IT TO THOSE U.S. PRIVATE PARTIES WHO ALSO INDICATED INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT. DIRECTOR KIM'S SPOKESMAN CONJECTURED THAT THE RAASON FOR CONCERN WAS THAT PRESS PLAY

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OF THIS ISSUE WOULD CREATE THE IMPRESSION THAT PRESIDENT PAK
HAD TAKEN THIS ACTION UNDER PRESSURE FROM THE U.S. GOVERNMENT.

3. COMMENT: FUTURE EFFECTIVENESS OF SUCH APPROACHES WILL DEPEND
ON OUR ABILITY TO HOLD CLOSELY AND NOT PUBLICIZE OUR EFFORTS
IN THIS CASE. HOPE THIS CAN BE EMPHASIZED TO CONGRESSIONAL
CONTACTS WHEN THEY ARE INFORMED ABOUT PAK'S ACTION IN THIS
CASE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INFORMATION CONTROL, POLITICAL PRISONERS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
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Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 76 STATE 313952
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3593096
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SUSPENSION OF DEATH SENTENCE FOR MR. KIM CHOL HYUN
TAGS: PINT, PINR, PINS, KS, KCIA, (KIM CHOL HYUN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ce3071d9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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